(d) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction was accorded to the project in April 2004. It is targeted for completion by June 2007.

(c) A sum of Rs. 237.356 crore is the Government of India share for the above project. A sum of Rs. 10.00 crore has been released till now.

(d) All documentation work for calling tenders have been completed by the consultants M/s MWH India Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai. Tenders have been called for by Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board for the construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) at Amberpet and Nagole and sewer works form Ramanathpur to Nallacheruvu.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Milk Production Project by NDDB in Uttaranchal

1590. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some milk production projects have been undertaken in the Joint sector with co-operative milk federations of different States by NDDB;

(b) if so, whether any such project has been started in Uttaranchal;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal to undertake some of such projects in that State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No. milk production project has been undertaken in the joint sector with cooperative milk federations of different States by NDDB. However, marketing joint ventures have been formed by NDDB in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Funds for Agricultural Marketing

1591. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a scheme to make available funds for developing and strengthening agricultural marketing only for such States as have made certain policy changes towards reforms;

(b) if so, the nature and details of the policy changes required for the State Governments to qualify for the aid under this scheme; and

(c) the exten of aid extended there-under to different States, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently approved a Central Sector Scheme titled "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization". Under the scheme, credit linked investment subsidy shall be provided on the capital cost of general or commodity specific infrastructure for marketing of agricultural commodities and for strengthening and modernization of existing agricultural markets, wholesale, rural periodic or in tribal areas. The scheme is linked to reforms in State Law dealing with agricultural markets (APMC Act).

(b) Under the existing APMC Act, State Government alone is empowered to initiate the process of setting up of markets for agricultural commodities in notified areas. Processing industry can not buy directly from the farmers. The farmer is restricted from entering into direct contract with any manufacturer as the produce is required to be canalized through regulated markets. These restrictions are acting as a disincentive to farmers, trade and industries. The State Governments have, therefore, been advised to amend the APMC Act to allow direct marketing and contract farming and to permit setting up of competitive markets in private and cooperative sectors. Assistance under the new Scheme will be provided in those States that amend the APMC Act accordingly.

(c) The Scheme was approved by Government for implementation on 20.10.2004. All the States have since been requested to inform as to